Alternative NH for Madurai to Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu

3347. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the process of extending National Highways in Tamil Nadu, it has rightly been expressed through press and other sources that Madurai to Ramanathapuram should have an laternative National Highway (NH) *via* Varichiyur, Sivaganga, Ilayangudi, Nainarkoil, Ramanathapuram which would serve the backward area, shorter in distance, less of over bridges, less of and acquisition cost, etc. comparing the cost involved in marking the existing NH road into a four-lane road;

(b) the steps taken/contemplated by Government on this issue; and

(c) the progress made, if any, on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA):

(a) No proposal for creation of any alternative National Highway to the existing National Highway No. 49 between Madurai and Ramanathapuram has been received from State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Road accidents in the Metros

3348. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road accidents are increasing in the country especially in the metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA):

(a) and (b) As per the report by the States/UTs, the details regarding road accident on all roads and 22 mega cities during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 (the latest available data) are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below).

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for the road users which are as under:

(i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/raod signs, introduction of Highways Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, raod safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).